

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

February 20, 2008

The Pueblo of Isleta Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children of all ages. Our Services and programs are offered to make the Library enticing to children, to encourage them to visit the Library and to develop a love of books, reading and libraries.

Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or an assigned chaperone. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended. Staff may need to contact authorities such as the police to either assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.

Parents should not use the Library as an alternative to daycare. For safety's sake, parents should make sure that their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the Library by themselves. Parents should also realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children's behavior.

The Library is not responsible for the care and supervision of unaccompanied children prior to opening or after closing. The Library is also not responsible for children outside the building who await transportation or who are socializing. Adults are responsible for unattending school age children using the Library should be aware of the Library's hours and make arrangements to meet their children on time.

It is not the intention of The Pueblo of Isleta Library to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasonable response prepared if necessary. The Library respects the privacy of all patrons and will intervene only when, in the opinion of our staff, the safety and well-being of a child appears to be threatened.